AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the

application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A network-based design service system, comprising:

a design database server for storing a design database containing ~~information on~~

~~parts/vendors,~~ information on sample circuits ~~, and information on anti-noise circuit and other~~

~~design know-how~~ that ~~are~~ is registered ~~by a parts vendor~~ in advance via a network;

a designer terminal for a designer to search said design database~~, determine design~~

~~conditions autonomously,~~ and conduct the design of a device; and

an account terminal for making a payment ~~paying a royalty~~ for utilizing the design

database from ~~the~~ a bank account of the designer ~~to the bank account of the parts vendor upon~~

~~utilization of said design database~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The network-based design service system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein

said designer terminal searches said design database on a WWW site~~, determines design~~

~~conditions autonomously,~~ and conducts the design of ~~a~~ the device.

3. (Currently Amended) The network-based design service system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein

said account terminal has a function for paying an employment fee from ~~the~~ a bank

account of ~~the~~ a parts vendor to the bank account of the designer upon employment of a part by

said designer.

4. (Currently Amended) The network-based design service system as set forth in claim 1,

comprising:

means for notifying <u>other designer terminals</u> ~~a problem~~ if a problem is found in a sample

circuit~~, etc.,~~ during the design process for ~~a~~ <u>the</u> device ~~to other designer terminals being used by~~

~~other designers working on the devices related to the device with said problem~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The network-based design service system as set forth in claim 1,

comprising:

means for the designer to conduct circuit design for ~~a~~ <u>the</u> device, and determine parts to

employ ~~autonomously~~ through price simulation for ~~achieving the~~ <u>meeting a</u> target price of the

device and noise simulation for achieving ~~the~~ a required noise proof performance.

6. (Currently Amended) The network-based design service system as set forth in claim i,

comprising:

3

means for notifying <u>other designer terminals if</u> a problem <u>is</u> found in a sample circuit, ~~etc.,~~ during the design process for ~~a~~ <u>the</u> device~~, if any, to other designer terminals being used by other designers working on the devices related to the device with said problem~~; and

means for the designer to conduct circuit design for ~~a~~ <u>the</u> device, and determine parts to employ ~~autonomously~~ through price simulation for ~~achieving the~~ <u>meeting a</u> target price of the device and noise simulation for achieving ~~the~~ <u>a</u> required noise proof performance.

7. (Currently Amended) A network-based design method, comprising the steps of:

a parts vendor registering on a design database ~~server various kinds of information, including information on parts/vendors,~~ information on sample circuits~~, and information on anti-noise circuit and other design know-how,~~ in advance via a network;

a designer searching said design database~~, determining design conditions autonomously,~~ and conducting the design of a device; and

~~paying~~ <u>making</u> a ~~royalty~~ <u>payment</u> for utilizing the design database from ~~the~~ <u>a</u> bank account of the designer ~~to the bank account of the parts vendor upon utilization of said design database~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The network-based design method as set forth in claim 7, wherein

4

said design step searches said design database on a WWW site, ~~determines design conditions autonomously,~~ and conducts the design of ~~a~~ the device.

9. (Currently Amended) The network-based design method as set forth in claim 7, further comprising the step of:

paying an employment fee from ~~the~~ a bank account of the parts vendor to the bank account of the designer upon employment of a part by said designer.

10. (Currently Amended) The network-based design method as set forth in claim 7, comprising the step of:

notifying other designer terminals ~~a problem~~ if a problem is found in a sample circuit, ~~etc.,~~ during the design process for ~~a~~ the device ~~to other designer terminals being used by other designers working on the devices related to the device with said problem~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The network-based design method as set forth in claim 7, comprising the step of:

the designer conducting circuit design for ~~a~~ the device, and ~~determine~~ determining parts to employ ~~autonomously~~ through price simulation for ~~achieving the~~ meeting a target price of the device and noise simulation for achieving ~~the~~ a required noise proof performance.

12. (Currently Amended) The network-based design method as set forth in claim 7,

comprising the steps of:

notifying other designer terminals a problem if a problem is found in a sample circuit,

etc., during the design process for a the device to other designer terminals being used by other

designers working on the devices related to the device with said problem; and

the designer conducting circuit design for a the device, and determine determining parts

to employ autonomously through price simulation for achieving the meeting a target price of the

device and noise simulation for achieving the a required noise proof performance.

13. (Currently Amended) A network-based design service system, comprising:

a design database server for storing a design database containing information on

parts/vendors, information on sample circuits, and information on anti-noise circuit and other

design know-how that are registered by a parts vendor in advance via a network; and

a designer terminal for a designer to search said design database, determine design

conditions autonomously, and conduct the design of a device.

14. (Currently Amended) The network-based design service system as set forth in claim

13, wherein

said designer terminal searches said design database on a WWW site, determines design

conditions autonomously, and conducts the design of a the device.

6

15. (Currently Amended) The network-based design service system as set forth in claim 13, comprising:

means for notifying <u>other designer terminals</u> a~problem if a problem is found in a sample circuit, etc., during the design process for a <u>the</u> device to~other~designer~terminals~being~used~by other~designers~working~on~the~devices~related~to~the~device~with~said~problem.

16. (Currently Amended) The network-based design service system as set forth in claim 13, comprising:

means for the designer to conduct circuit design for a <u>the</u> device, and determine parts to employ autonomously through price simulation for achieving~the <u>meeting a</u> target price of the device and noise simulation for achieving the <u>a</u> required noise proof performance.

17. (Currently Amended) The network-based design service system as set forth in claim 13, comprising:

means for notifying <u>other designer terminals</u> a~problem if a problem is found in a sample circuit, etc., during the design process for a <u>the</u> device to~other~designer~terminals~being~used~by other~designers~working~on~the~devices~related~to~the~device~with~said~problem; and

means for the designer to conduct circuit design for ~~a~~ the device, and determine parts to

employ ~~autonomously~~ through price simulation for ~~achieving the~~ meeting a target price of the

device and noise simulation for achieving ~~the~~ a required noise proof performance.

18. (New) The network-based design service system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the

design database further comprises information on an anti-noise circuit.

19. (New) The network-based design service system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the

design database further comprises information on parts and vendors that supply the parts.

20. (New) The network-based design service system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the

information on sample circuits is registered by a parts vendor.

21. (New) The network-based design service system as set forth in claim 20, wherein the

payment is made from the bank account of the designer to a bank account of the parts vendor.

22. (New) The network-based design method as set forth in claim 7, wherein the design

database server further comprises information on an anti-noise circuit.

23. (New) The network-based design method as set forth in claim 7, wherein the design

database further comprises information on parts and vendors that supply the parts.

24. (New) The network-based design method as set forth in claim 7, wherein the payment

is made from the bank account of the designer to a bank account of the parts vendor.

25. (New) The network-based design service system as set forth in claim 13, wherein the

design database further comprises information on an anti-noise circuit.

26. (New) The network-based design service system as set forth in claim 13, wherein the

design database further comprises information on parts and vendors that supply the parts.

27. (New) The network-based design service system as set forth in claim 13, wherein the

information on sample circuits is registered by a parts vendor.